

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Analysis of Police Activity and Programming
in the
Woburn, Massachusetts Weed and Seed Area**

*Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
Programs Division*

Statistical Analysis Center

September 1999

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center.

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This project was supported by the Justice Research and Statistics Association. Points of view in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Justice Research and Statistics Association.

Acknowledgments

The Executive Office of Public Safety Programs Division would like to thank Sergeant John Murphy and Detective Tom Callahan of the Woburn Police Department for their continued support and assistance throughout this project. We would also like to thank the former Statistical Analysis Center Director, Rhiana Kohl, and the former Statistical Analysis Center Deputy Director, Charles Kaufmann, for the time and effort they devoted to developing this project.

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Introduction

The fundamental purpose of Weed and Seed is to eradicate violent and drug related crime, and gang activity in targeted neighborhoods and to provide a safe environment, free of crime, gangs, and drugs, in which law abiding citizens can reside, work, and raise their families. Targeted areas can be improved by a bilateral approach of “weeding” out criminals by removing them from the targeted area and “seeding” the area with social and economic revitalization efforts. Community policing is intended as the “bridge” between weeding and seeding (NIJ, 1999).

Cooperative participation between agencies and the targeted community residents is imperative for the success of the Weed and Seed program. There are 3 essential objectives that highlight this partnership:

- 1) To create an all inclusive multi-agency approach to reduce and prevent crime, specifically violent and drug-related, in targeted high-crime neighborhoods.
- 2) To organize and combine continuing as well as new Federal, State, local, and private sector initiatives, criminal justice efforts and human services, focusing on those project sites which will capitalize on the Weed and Seed objective of controlling and preventing violent crime, drug trafficking, and drug related crime.
- 3) To motivate community residents in the targeted sites to assist law enforcement in the identification and removal of violent offenders and drug traffickers from their neighborhoods and to aid other human service agencies in identifying and responding to service needs of the target area.

There are four program elements, in which specific strategies and program components are created to carry out the three main objectives of Weed and Seed. They are the following:

- 1) **Law enforcement-** The primary role of law enforcement in Weed and Seed is the suppression and containment of criminal activities. These activities include detection, enforcement, arrest, and prosecution, conviction, and incarceration of

narcotics traffickers and violent criminals operating in the targeted area. Those targeted are those who are responsible for the disproportionate amount of criminal activity in the neighborhoods.

- 2) **Community policing-** Community Policing is the bridge between the weeding and seeding in the targeted community. Community policing mobilizes the community into solving and further preventing crime in their neighborhoods. The community is now made a part of the solution. Law enforcement, aided by community residents, identifies both criminal activities and criminal key players. Law enforcement aids in the creation of community solutions thereby, building community responsibility through mobilization. Law enforcement increases its visibility in the neighborhood, showing their dedication to the eradication of the community's criminal problems. Some police activities include: foot patrols, victim referrals, problem solving and community relation activities.
- 3) **Prevention, intervention, and treatment-** This seeding element is intended to decrease risk factors and to strengthen protective factors that are associated with drugs, violence, and crime in the targeted area. Private citizens, state, federal, local agencies, and businesses work in partnership to prevent crime from reoccurring. Various social service agencies are implemented or strengthened to help the targeted area in their fight for their community's revitalization. Community agencies identified as "safe havens" usually coordinate the prevention, intervention, and treatment activities. Some activities might include youth programs, victim services, school and community programs, and support groups.
- 4) **Neighborhood restoration-** This element boosts community morale, increases community responsibility/problem ownership, revitalizes the neighborhood's physical appearance, and local economic and business conditions. The overall quality of life is improved through such efforts like improved housing conditions, enhanced social and public services, and educational, economic, and recreational activities.

The city of Woburn, Massachusetts' Weed and Seed program focuses on the elimination of drug and gang activities while revitalizing the community by economic and quality of life improvements through the creation of partnerships between the Woburn Police Department, local, state, and federal agencies and local businesses.

Community Overview

The city of Woburn is a blue-collar community, located twelve miles northwest of Boston. Its residents number close to 37,000, with a daytime population of approximately 85,000 in an area of 12.7 square miles. Woburn's principal highways are State Route 38; U.S. Route 3; and Interstate Route 93, which passes along the eastern border and forms an interchange with State Route 128/Interstate 95 just over the line in Reading. These major routes create a vulnerability by making the city more accessible to criminal elements, such as narcotics trafficking.

According to the 1990 U.S. census: 95 percent of the population in Woburn was White; .9 percent was Black; .2 percent was American Indian; 1.5 percent was Asian; 2.3 percent was Hispanic; and .1 percent was classified as "Other" race or ethnicity (MISER, 1999).

The 1990 U.S. census indicated that 5.1 percent of the Woburn population lived below the poverty level (statewide poverty level was 8.9 percent). In Woburn, 56 percent of the housing structures were single unit structures, 20 percent were two to four unit structures, and 22 percent were five or more unit dwellings (US Census Bureau, 1990). Four hundred and fifteen units were state public housing units and 100 were federal public housing units. According to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), in 1993, there were 866 (6.16%) Subsidized Housing Units in Woburn. "Subsidized housing units are the number of units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable housing units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments" (DHCD, 1994). Thirty-eight families in Woburn received Rental Assistance (MRVP) from the Commonwealth and 281 families received Section 8 from the federal government (DHCD, 1994).

In 1998, the unemployment rate in Woburn was 2.7%, slightly lower than the 3.3% statewide unemployment rate (Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training, 1999). According to the 1990 U.S. Census, the median household income in Woburn was \$42,679.

Nature of the Problem

The Woburn Weed and Seed program (The Program) is concentrated in the downtown section of the city, which includes the public high school and the city's greatest area of rentals and public housing units. The neighborhoods were targeted because of their high crime rates, highly visible drug dealing, and the overall deterioration of housing. The overall quality of life in this area has slowly declined over the years. The targeted area is the oldest part of the city and was created before zoning ordinances. This area has the highest density of residents and businesses, with the majority of properties not owner occupied. While the owners/permanent residents have moved out, a transient population with little invested in the area has taken their place.

With this disorder comes the opportunity for gangs, drugs, and crime to take its hold. Although the majority of residents are law-abiding, the few criminals create an atmosphere of fear within the neighborhood. This not only impedes the citizens and their right to a safe neighborhood, but harms the local economy as well. Many stores are closed, and there exists a poor mix of commercial use of the buildings, consisting mostly of hair salons and sandwich shops. People not only do not want to shop in the downtown area due to the fear of crime, but with businesses locating elsewhere, there are few quality stores to shop in downtown.

Crime

According to the Woburn Police Department, there are 75 sworn officers and 5 civilian personnel currently employed by the Department. Following the statewide and national trend, overall crime in Woburn continues to decline. The following table describes the number of Part 1 crimes reported to the Woburn Police Department from 1995 through 1998.

Table 1: Number of Reported Part 1 Crimes in Woburn, 1995 - 1998

Part 1 Crime	1995	1996	1997	1998
Murder	1	1	0	0
Rape	6	3	7	4
Robbery	20	10	13	11
Aggravated Assault	25	38	41	33
Burglary	201	150	84	45
Larceny	843	764	672	634
Motor Vehicle Theft	178	183	165	74

Source: Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit

The federal and state owned housing developments (e.g., Spring Court Extension, Creston Avenue, Liberty Avenue) are also included in this area. The Woburn Police were well aware of the gang presence in the developments. The Latin Kings currently have a presence in Woburn, as do the Latin Queens. The Woburn Police Department has determined the area's gangs to be armed and involved in both serious property and violent crimes. The gang influence emanates from the nearby cities of Lawrence and Boston, given easy access via Woburn's major highways. Not only are Woburn residents and businesses affected by local gangs, they are also victimized by violent street gangs from the outside cities of Lowell and Lawrence.

Not only are crimes perpetrated by gangs, residents not associated with gangs are also causing disorder within their community. Area juveniles are negatively affecting the quality of life within housing developments by loitering and engaging in delinquent activities. Residents who allow criminals to utilize their dwellings for illegal activities further exacerbate this problem. Resident dwellings are often used as a base of operation for the use and sale of narcotics. Although most illegal drugs are available in Woburn, the low cost, high purity, and easy access to Heroin continues to pose the most serious problem for law enforcement. In 1998, three heroin-induced fatalities occurred in Woburn as a result of the drug's high purity level. Although it was determined that the fatal Heroin originated in Lawrence, these incidents demonstrate how vulnerable Woburn is to the trafficking of drugs from larger Massachusetts cities.

Education

For the 1995-1996 school year, the Woburn School District's per pupil expenditure for education was \$4,945 (average state expenditure- \$4,737) and special education per pupil expenditure was \$8,070 (average state expenditure- \$8,873). According to the Massachusetts Department of Education in Woburn for the 1996-97 school year, the annual dropout rate for grades 9-12, was 1.3% (compared to the State 3.4%). The overall attendance rate for Woburn was 93.6% (State- 93.4%). Woburn excluded 2 students in the 1996-1997 school year (State wide total-1,498).

The Woburn Weed and Seed Program

The Weed and Seed program aims to revitalize crime-ridden targeted areas by "weeding out" violent crime, gang activity, drug use, and drug trafficking in targeted neighborhoods. Through a coordinated approach by multiple community partners, including residents, local businesses, and state, local, and federal agencies, the target area is restored through the "seeding" of social and economic programs.

Capt. James Martin is the project director of the Woburn Weed and Seed Program. In 1992, Sgt. John Murphy, who serves as a co-Coordinator for the Program, was transferred into the public housing beat for the Woburn Police Department. During the same year, Denise Peaslee was assigned as the Housing Coordinator for the local Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD), and currently is the Weed and Seed co-Coordinator with Sergeant Murphy. With assistance from a drug elimination grant, the Woburn Police Department and HUD began using police records for identification and implementation of civil eviction proceedings. In addition, HUD implemented tenant screening procedures for vacant public housing units, resulting in less problematic tenants (Woburn Police Department, 1997).

The Woburn Massachusetts Weed and Seed program received official recognition in June 1996 and received funding in October 1996. An "officially recognized" program may receive preference in discretionary funding from participating federal agencies; priority for participating in federally sponsored training and technical assistance; use of the Weed and Seed logo; and eligibility to apply for Department of Justice Weed and Seed funds, pending the availability of funds (Executive Office of Weed and Seed, 1999). The Woburn Office of the Mayor in

cooperation with the Woburn Police Department and the Woburn Housing Authority determined the focus of the Weed and Seed program would be the continuation and strengthening of drug and gang enforcement efforts in the target area. In combining efforts and resources, Woburn law enforcement weeds out the criminal element in the targeted area while assisting residents and social agencies in seeding positive programming.

Objectives

The following are the major objectives of the Woburn Weed and Seed Program outlined in their 1997 application.

- 1) To eliminate drug dealing, the criminal element, and the drug sub-culture from the targeted area through a coordinated operation conducted by the Northeastern Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), Woburn Police Department, and the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).
- 2) To develop a comprehensive partnership between community policing officers and area residents, which together will work towards reducing crime and empowering residents to create safe neighborhoods for all families.
- 3) To prevent substance abuse, violence and criminal activity among the youth in the targeted area.
- 4) To improve the overall quality of life in the targeted area through both improvements in the area's physical appearance as well as developing residential social, educational, and economic programming.

Program Components

Guided by the four Weed and Seed program elements, Woburn has created specific strategies and program components to improve the targeted area.

Law enforcement

In coordination with the NEMLEC Drug Task Force and the DEA, the Program aims to eliminate drugs and crime in the targeted area. The additional funding by Weed and Seed allowed more officers to dedicate time and resources to investigate multiple situations simultaneously. Through activities such as buy busts, use of confidential informants, audio/visual surveillance, undercover drug investigations, and networking with residents, the Program aims to slowly and effectively eradicate the criminal atmosphere in the targeted neighborhoods.

In the housing developments, law enforcement, in partnership with the Housing Authority, has effectively implemented both civil and criminal eviction proceedings to remove troublesome residents. In the Federally operated Spring Court Extension development, residents are mandated to be evicted upon arrest for a drug offense. This law has significantly aided law enforcement's crack down on problem residents, allowing them to take a "zero-tolerance" policy towards drugs. Prior to their partnership with law enforcement, housing authority officials tended to view after-hours resident problems as a matter to be handled by police only. The ensuing partnership with law enforcement has created an attitude of collaboration with which the criminal element can more effectively be pursued for the betterment of all residents. Evictions are coordinated by law enforcement to have the most impact for lasting change. For example, highly visible eviction proceedings can be conducted in June to reduce criminal activity during the summer months. This get-tough stance on problem behavior serves as a warning to other, potentially-difficult residents that they can also be evicted for their actions.

A database was created to track criminals, their activities, associates, and patterns of behavior. Individuals were ranked according to their police involvement. Police found, in most cases, a high-ranking person was responsible for significant amount of crimes committed. By targeting and eliminating these high-ranking people, the majority of crimes committed would drop significantly. This identification and subsequent incarceration of a large number career criminals was performed in the late 1980's and early 1990's, and has led to the elimination of criminal influences for young people. Whereas young adults once had a criminal network from which

they could learn and model themselves, these older criminals are no longer on the streets to offer apprenticeship and a way into a life of crime.

A resident survey was distributed to assess the needs and concerns of residents. The survey found the highest concern of residents was programming for their children. In response, youth programming was created in partnerships with local service providers, such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club.

Community policing

Through community policing, the Program strives to reduce crime and its fears and increase social agency referrals, intelligence, employment rate, and empower residents by helping them develop neighborhood safety and stability. Before the implementation of the Program, there was a problem with loitering youth and the beginning of assaults for territorial claims. By utilizing the community policing philosophy, the assigned officers proactively worked with residents to identify and solve quality of life issues. The police found the greatest concern for elderly residents was their fear of youth in the downtown area. Through targeted enforcement and youth programming, youth no longer loiter in the downtown area and elderly, in general, feel safer. One patrol Lieutenant and 6 Weed and Seed Officers were assigned to the targeted neighborhoods to participate in policing initiatives, youth and intervention programs, and neighborhood revitalization. Specific activities include: weekly police call follow-up, community needs assessment, community problem solving meetings, identification and referral of high risk youth to local social agencies, and utilization of a hotline.

Prevention, intervention, and treatment

Law enforcement hopes to prevent youth substance abuse, violence, and criminal activity by monitoring, tracking, and diverting high-risk youth residing in the targeted area. According to the Woburn Police Department's Weed and Seed application (April 30, 1997), the public housing youth in the target area have a 40% court involvement rate and a 40% truant rate. In various locations, the Program created and enhanced local "safe havens" for the youth of Woburn. These havens provide educational, health, and recreational programs. The city also creates leadership opportunities through tutoring and life skills education. Leadership opportunities and

career planning and goals were created to encourage youth development. A Weed and Seed Officer is assigned to assist each safe haven with safety and crime prevention. The following prevention and intervention programs are conducted in Woburn:

Clean Start- This 10-week educational program is for eligible first time drug-related youth offenders who have been diverted from the court system. Approximately 12-20 youth each, ages 15-17 years old, participate in one of the three sessions held annually. Topics discussed include life skills, drugs, and the law. Youth are required to attend an NA/AA meeting as well as submit 3 random drug tests. Those youth who successfully complete the program have their original charges are dropped.

After School Program at the Shamrock Elementary School- includes a homework club, drama and arts program, and a Spanish program for adults and children. The White School conducts an after-school program for K-5th grade youth focusing on profession and hobbies in the arts.

High Flight (in cooperation with the YMCA)- this outdoor adventure program builds leadership, communication and teamwork skills through rope course challenges, canoeing, rock climbing, and community service.

Mayor's Drug Task Force- a citywide drug reduction council pools resources and initiates parent drug information sessions, raises local drug awareness, and host numerous speakers.

Weed and Seed Youth Tracker- assists the community professionals and community police officers in tracking high-risk youths. Works closely with the Housing Authority, Police Department, Probation, and the School Department and often acts as a mentor.

Weed and Seed Youth Executive Council- a youth leadership group trained in leadership skills plans youth social and educational activities as well as perform community service.

Neighborhood restoration

By reducing fear of crime and unemployment, the Program aims to revitalize the area and its residents. Specific safety concerns, such as drug traffic areas and youth loitering, are addressed through analysis of environmental design and additional lighting. The employability skills of

adults within the targeted area are assessed and job, education and training referrals are made, and workshops on interviewing skills and career development are held. A career counselor, from Community Service network, Inc., in Stoneham, MA, assists residents with career planning, securing employment, and financial planning. Since a number of housing development residents do not have transportation, the police department arranged for the services to come to the residents. In a local school or an empty, designated residence, local residents learn about career development, banking, job fairs, and planning for home ownership.

Partnerships/Collaborations

The Woburn Weed and Seed Program has created multiple partnerships with community agencies to enhance neighborhood safety and improve the overall quality of life in the targeted area. The following is an abbreviated listing of the Weed and Seed partnerships:

YMCA, the Downtown Revitalization Committee, Woburn Housing Authority, Woburn School System, Woburn Council of Social Concern, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Woburn Business Association, ERI Summer Youth Employment, NEMLEC, Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Woburn District Court, and various Neighborhood Crime Watches. In one example, the Woburn Police Department worked closely with the Downtown Revitalization Committee to review local business concerns (e.g., lack of parking in downtown, loitering). Weed and Seed officers attended each meeting and open communication between the two parties was created. In turn, the Committee began to take a proactive approach to their area's problems. Plans are currently being developed to create additional customer parking from abandon properties, which were taken by eminent domain.

Evaluation of the Woburn Weed and Seed Program

Overview

In April 1998, the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center was selected to participate in a multistate study of Weed and Seed Programs. This study was administered by the Justice Research and Statistics Association, through a grant from the United States Department of Justice's Executive Office for Weed and Seed. The Massachusetts SAC received funds to

develop a partnership with the Woburn, Massachusetts Police Department and to evaluate the city's Weed and Seed Program.

The goal of the evaluation was to provide a product that the Woburn Weed and Seed site could use to further their work and also provide research that will be helpful for the Weed and Seed program as a whole by discussing the dynamics of arrest and calls for service mapping. In conducting this evaluation, the Massachusetts SAC analyzed and mapped data detailing policecalls for service.

Methodology

The Woburn Police Department has a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system with crime reporting capabilities that automatically tracks the calls for service and also collects the arrest and reported crime data. As the calls for service data were available with the incident location, it was possible to map the data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software Mapinfo™. The calls for service data was provided to the SAC in a format conducive to analysis. The arrest data, however, is not available in a format that can be easily read or manipulated, and is in text format. Specifically, the data for each arrest resides over multiple (and varying) cases. The variables are not fixed and changes for each case. As such, it was decided that the evaluation would be limited to the analysis of the available calls for service data for the year 1995 through 1998.

The calls for service data were imported into a relational database and queried to extract the Weed and Seed areas and essential calls for service (i.e., calls relating to police administration were omitted from analysis). The SAC utilized spreadsheet software to prepare tables and charts depicting specific crimes, for each area by year. Analysis was performed at this point to compare the Weed and Seed Areas. The mapping software was utilized to geocode and spatially map the specific crimes. The geocode rate for the four years of data ranged from 91 percent to 94 percent. The vast majority of ungeocoded data was missing street numbers. The geographic analysis software was utilized to map the data over intervals of time, for specific call types. Hotspots for crime and disorder within the Weed and Seed Area were identified and mapped according to historical ranking.

Evaluation Findings

Hot Spots for Police Activity

Police calls for service data from 1995 through 1998 was examined to identify hot spots for police activity. All crimes were included in this analysis, and the top ten addresses receiving the highest call volume for a given year were included for analysis. As result, fifteen common addresses were identified over the four-year period. These fifteen addresses (“hot spots”) were ranked according to their total call volume over the time period examined.

This analysis identified known street addresses that varied from 322 calls for service to 58 calls for service between 1995 and 1998. As indicated by the bold numbers in Table 2, the 1st and 2nd ranked addresses maintained the highest calls volumes across the four-year period. The Table also demonstrates the year in which the particular hot spot peaked in call volume. The underlined numbers indicate that the majority of hot spots peaked in 1998 (5 locations), followed by 1995 (4 locations). In 1996 and 1997, three locations had their peak in call volume.

The physical location of these hot spots for crime is displayed in Map 1. As the map indicates, the majority of hot spots (8 of the 15) are located in the Weed and Seed Area 26. In addition, six of the hot spots are located on Main Street. However, it is important to note that the address of “0 Main Street” actually represents unidentifiable, intersecting streets. This address was not mapped and its position in the ranking is to be examined with caution, as it may represent more than one physical location. Interestingly, the location to which police are most frequently called is the high school (88 Montvale Avenue). This may actually represent a positive outcome of the Weed and Seed partnership and indicates that school personnel do not hesitate to call the police when appropriate.

Calls for Service

Drug-Related

For purposes of this analysis, drug-related call for service included codes for drug equipment violations and drug/narcotic offenses. As Table 3 and Chart 1 indicate, surprisingly, the Weed and Seed area warranted very few drug-related calls, with a total of two in 1995, and peaking

**Table 2: Woburn Weed & Seed Area Hot Spots for All Crime
1995 - 1998**

<i>Historical Rank</i>	<i>Hot Spot</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1995-96 Total</i>	<i>1995 Rank</i>
1	X MONTVALE AV	<u>98</u>	62	82	80	322	1
2	X MAIN ST	88	71	<u>93</u>	60	312	2
3	X PLEASANT ST	<u>74</u>	49	48	47	218	3
4	X MAIN ST	50	54	27	<u>64</u>	195	4
5	X CAMPBELL ST	48	31	48	<u>67</u>	194	6
6	X EASTERN AV	47	<u>56</u>	29	38	170	7
7	X MAIN ST	50	<u>61</u>	37	16	164	5
8	X MAIN ST	19	41	<u>49</u>	41	150	13
9	X FOWLE ST	21	16	42	<u>66</u>	145	12
10	X MIDDLE ST	24	32	40	<u>43</u>	139	11
11	X MONTVALE AV	29	<u>38</u>	35	23	125	10
12	X MAIN ST	<u>31</u>	22	29	12	94	9
13	X WARREN AV	<u>34</u>	24	23	10	91	8
14	X MAIN ST	18	13	<u>35</u>	21	87	14
15	X MONTVALE AV	8	5	6	<u>39</u>	58	15

Note: Numbers in bold indicate the address with the highest call volume for the given year. Underlined numbers indicate the year in which the particular address experienced a peak in call volume (over the four year period).

Map1: Historically Ranked Hot Spots for All Crimes, 1995 - 1998

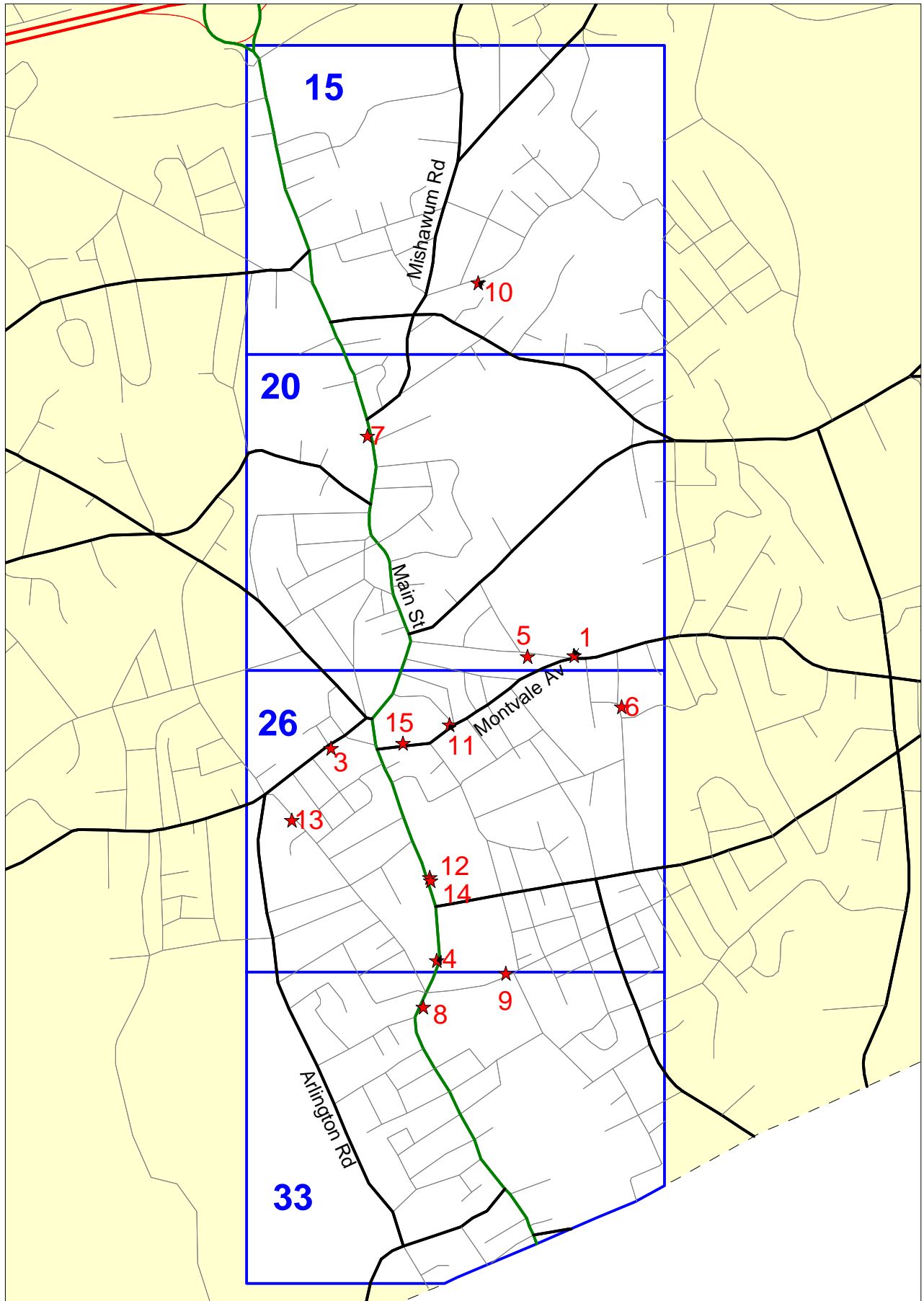
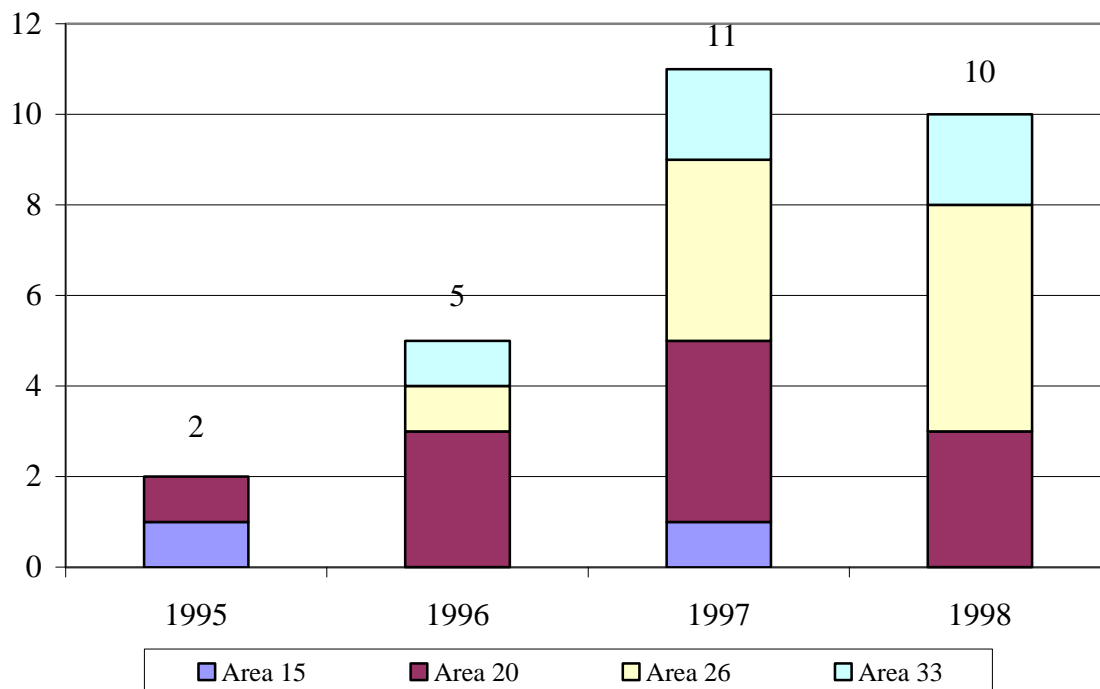


Table 3: Drug-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	1	0	1	0
155	0	0	0	0
Area 15	1	0	1	0
20	0	1	1	0
205	1	2	3	3
Area 20	1	3	4	3
26	0	0	2	5
265	0	0	2	0
266	0	1	0	0
269	0	0	0	0
Area 26	0	1	4	5
33	0	1	2	2
Area 33	0	1	2	2
Total Weed & Seed Area	2	5	11	10

Chart 1: Drug-Related Calls for Service



with 11 in 1997. Sub-Area 205 (within area 20) and sub-area 26 (within area 26), received the highest call volume over the four-year period with a total of 9 and 7 respectively. There are indications that calls for service relating to drugs are being improperly recorded as disturbances. As such, those data may be a more accurate representation of drug-related problems in the areas.

Robbery-Related

Robbery-related calls for service are inclusive of those executed with and without a weapon, and can occur at a business or residence. As Table 4 and Chart 2 indicate, robbery does not frequently occur within the Weed and Seed area. Following a slight decrease in robbery from 1995 to 1996 (7 to 5 calls), robbery calls increased in 1998 over 1997 from 6 to 8 calls for service. As displayed in Map 2, Area 15 experienced two robberies in 1998, where none previously occurred in the area. The map also displays a cluster of robberies occurring on Main Street where Areas 26 and 33 meet.

Assault-Related

As indicated in Table 5 and Chart 3, assault-related calls for service within the Woburn Weed and Seed area have decreased 27% over the four-year period. However, 1998 experience a slight increase over the prior year, from 69 calls to 74 calls for service. For purposes of this study, assault calls includes both simple and aggravated assault. Map 3 demonstrates that the calls are disbursed throughout the Weed and Seed area, however they tend to be less concentrated in Area 15. Furthermore, by 1998 the southernmost segment of Main Street, within Area 20, has witnesses an elimination of its assault problem.

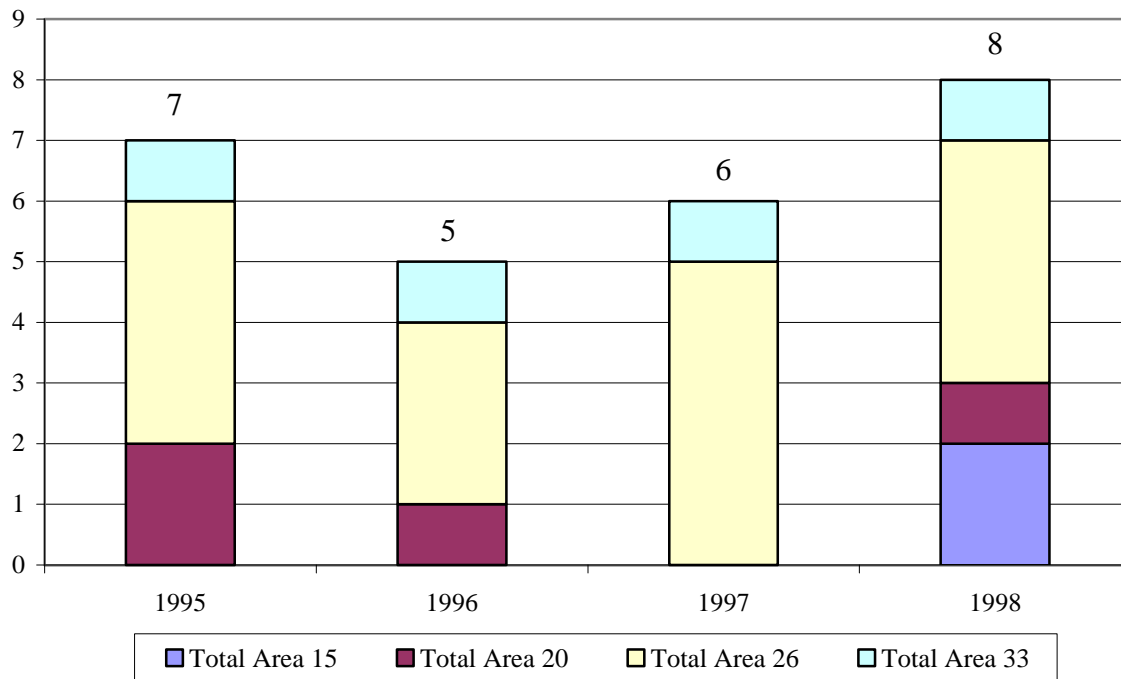
Burglary-Related

Calls relating to Burglary include both attempted and executed forced entry of a residence, motor vehicle, or commercial. As Table 6 and Chart 4 detail, burglary has declined significantly over the four-years of analysis. The most marked declines were experienced in Areas 20 and 26. However, burglary calls to Area 15 doubled from 1997 to 1998, from 7 to 15 calls for service.

Table 4: Robbery-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	0	0	0	2
155	0	0	0	0
Total Area 15	0	0	0	2
20	2	1	0	1
205	0	0	0	0
Total Area 20	2	1	0	1
26	4	3	4	3
265	0	0	1	0
266	0	0	0	0
269	0	0	0	1
Total Area 26	4	3	5	4
33	1	1	1	1
Total Area 33	1	1	1	1
Total Weed & Seed Area	7	5	6	8

Chart 2: Robbery-Related Calls for Service



Map 2: Robbery-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

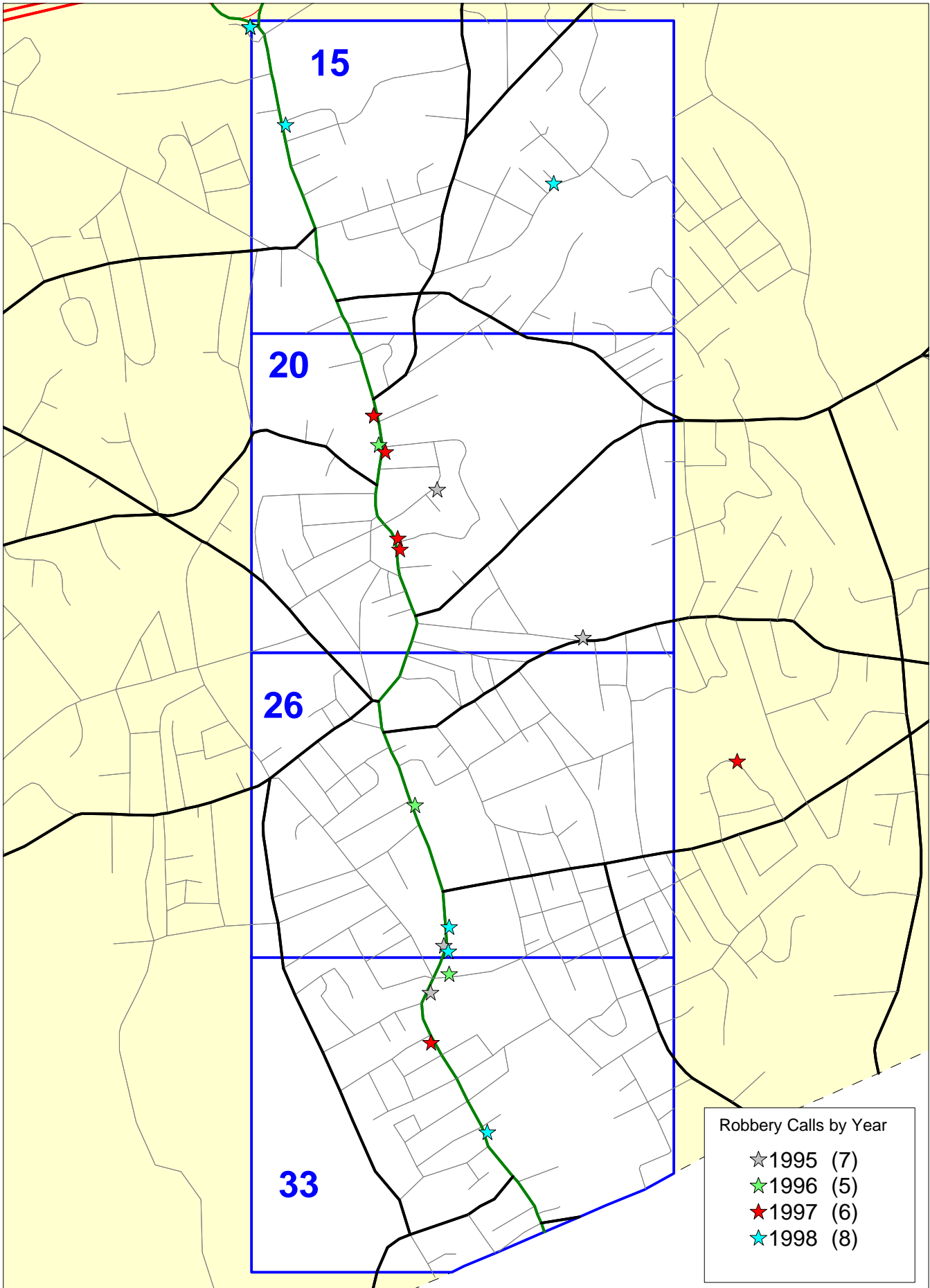
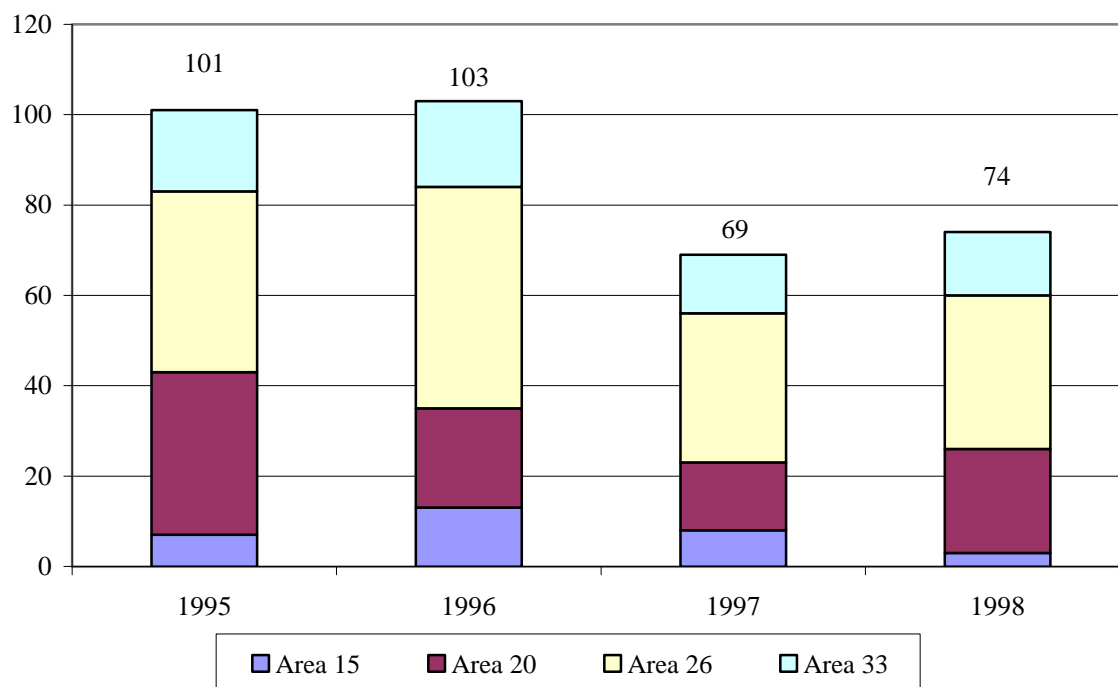


Table 5: Assault-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	3	10	4	3
155	4	3	4	0
Area 15	7	13	8	3
20	30	21	12	20
205	6	1	3	3
Area 20	36	22	15	23
26	34	36	28	24
265	2	7	4	8
266	0	1	0	2
269	4	5	1	0
Area 26	40	49	33	34
33	18	19	13	14
Area 33	18	19	13	14
Total Weed & Seed Area	101	103	69	74

Chart 3: Assault-Related Calls for Service



Map 3: Assault-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

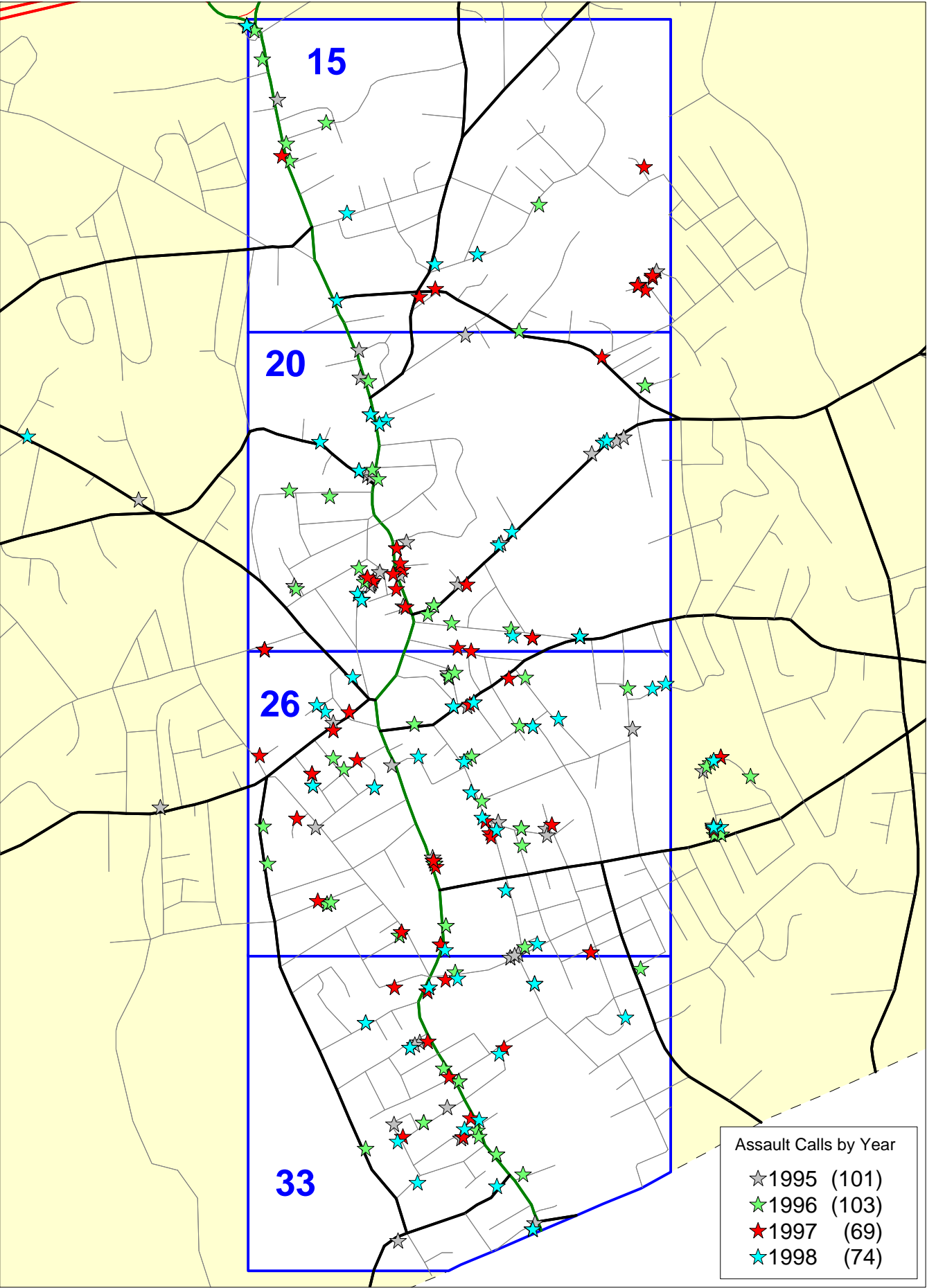
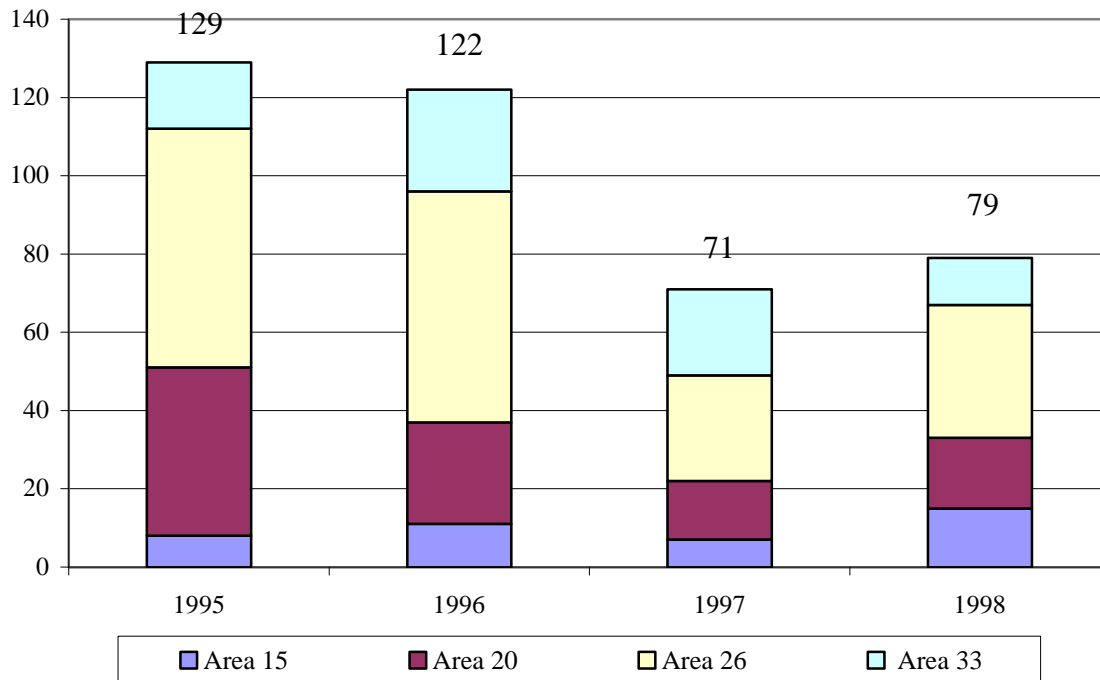


Table 6: Burglary-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	7	8	4	7
155	1	3	3	8
Area 15	8	11	7	15
20	34	23	12	17
205	9	3	3	1
Area 20	43	26	15	18
26	57	54	22	33
265	3	4	3	1
266	0	1	0	0
269	1	0	2	0
Area 26	61	59	27	34
33	17	26	22	12
Area 33	17	26	22	12
Total Weed & Seed Area	129	122	71	79

Chart 4: Burglary-Related Calls for Service



Map 4: Burglary-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

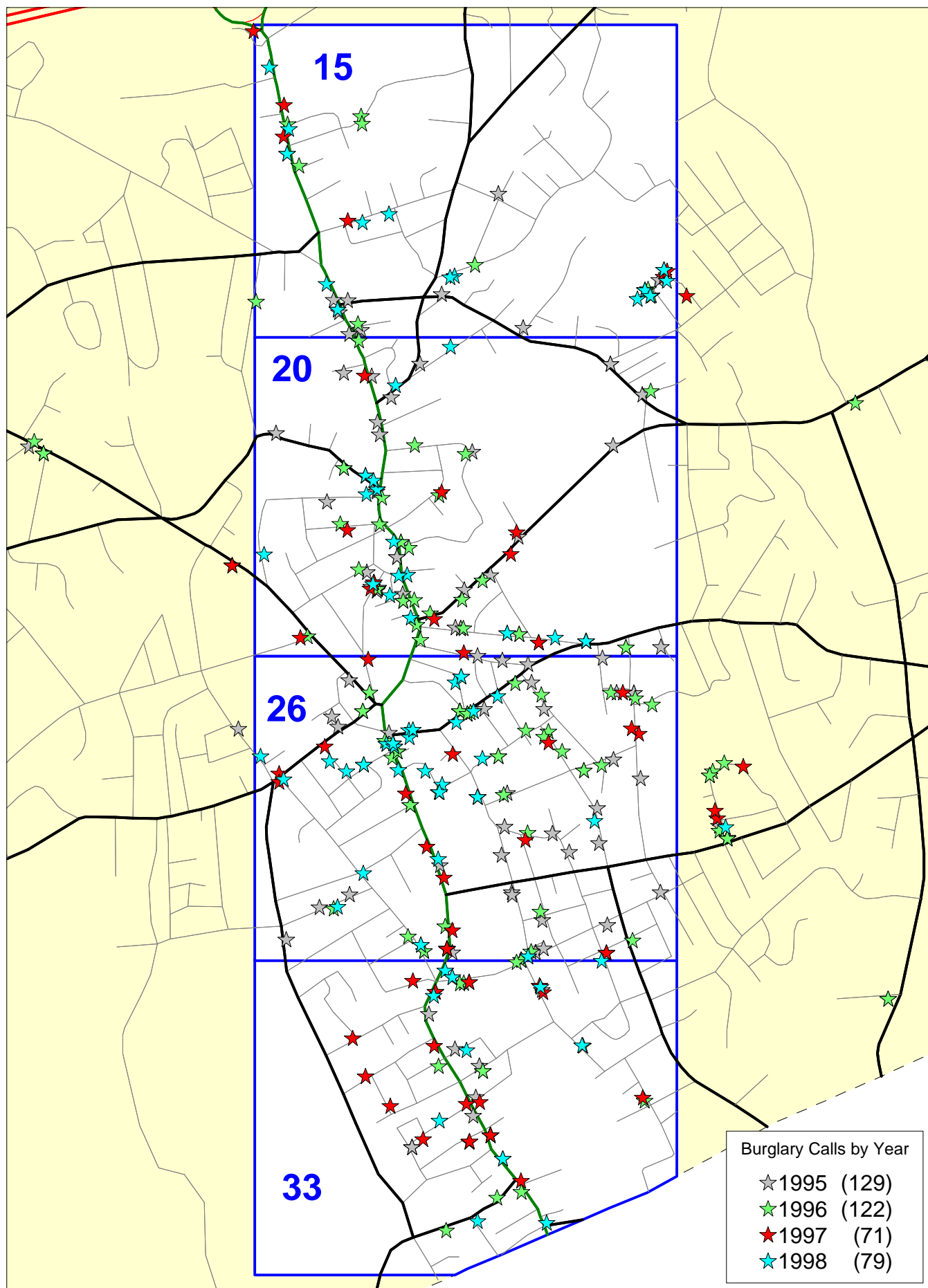
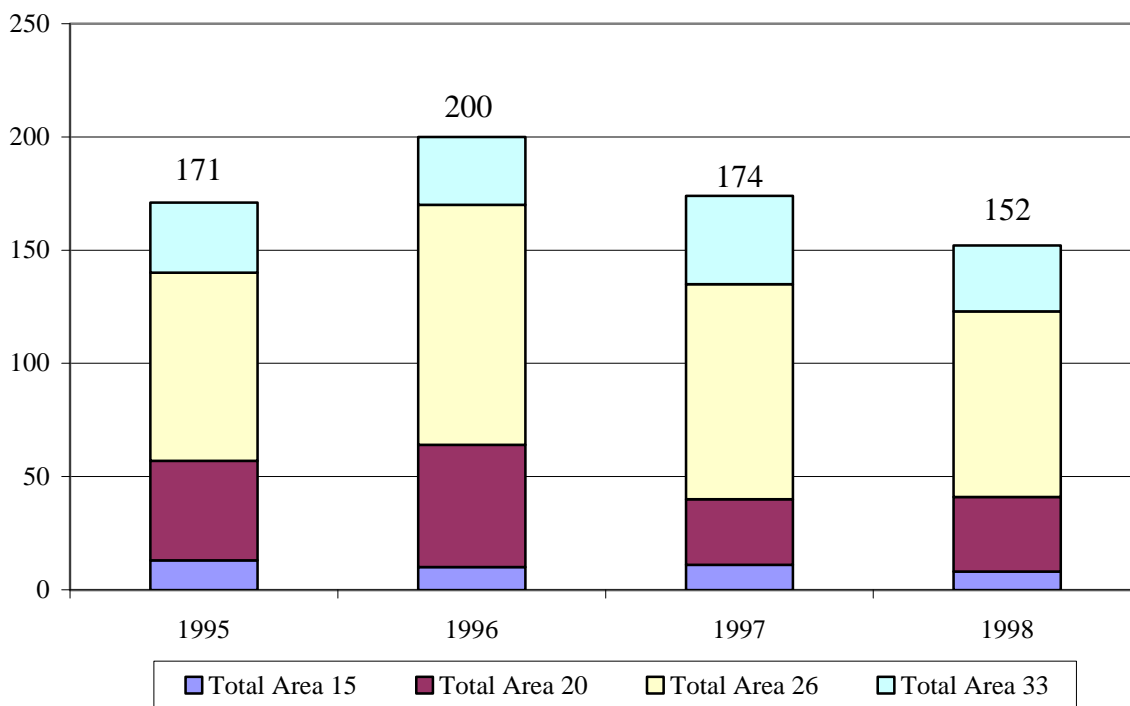


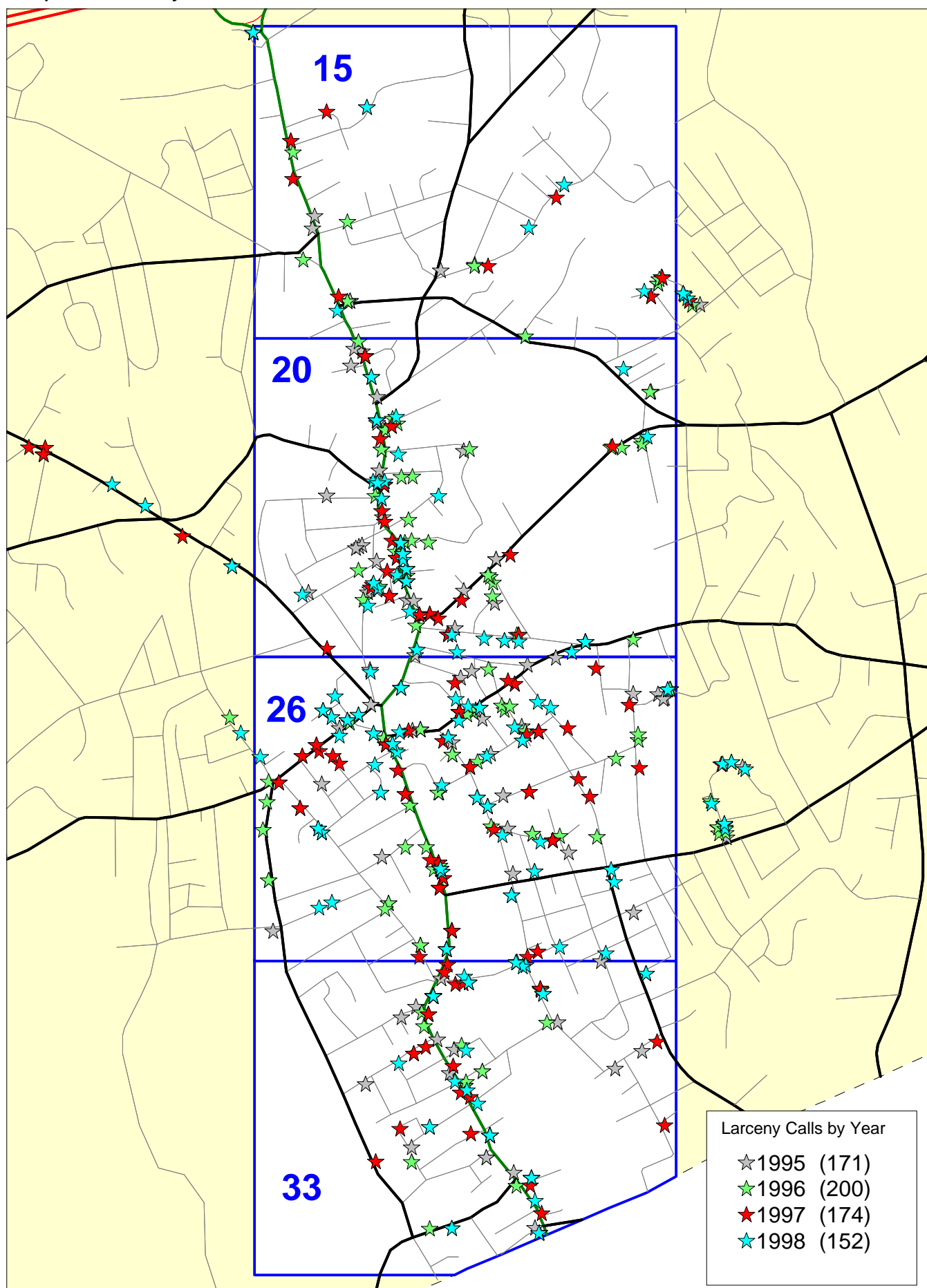
Table 7: Larceny-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	9	8	7	4
155	4	2	4	4
Total Area 15	13	10	11	8
20	40	54	27	29
205	4	0	2	4
Total Area 20	44	54	29	33
26	72	90	85	73
265	4	8	3	6
266	4	1	0	2
269	3	7	7	1
Total Area 26	83	106	95	82
33	31	30	39	29
Total Area 33	31	30	39	29
Total Weed & Seed Area	171	200	174	152

Chart 5: Larceny-Related Calls for Service



Map 5: Larceny-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998



Larceny-Related

Larceny includes both attempted and completed crimes, and includes such offenses as shoplifting, purse snatching, and pickpocket. As shown in Table Seven and Chart 5, following an initial increase in 1996, calls relating to larceny have steadily declined since 1996. The declines are being reported in all Weed and Seed areas. As Map 5 displays, larceny calls are most concentrated in Area 26, where they are nearly evenly dispersed across all locations of the area. Larceny calls in Area 20 tend to be concentrated in the area of Main Street. The Main Street section of Area 33 is also heavily affected by larceny calls.

Motor Vehicle Theft-Related

As Table 8 and Chart 6 indicate, calls for service relating to motor vehicle theft has remained relatively stable over the four-year period, decreasing only very slightly since 1996. While Areas 20 and 26 experienced slight declines, motor vehicle theft calls increased slightly in Area 15, and remained constant in Area 33 (despite an increase in 1996). As displayed in Map 6, the southeastern region of Area 15 continues to attract a large proportion of calls in that area.

Domestic-Related

For purposes of this study, domestic-related calls for service include stalking, 209A violations, domestic abuse/neglect, and elder abuse. As Table 9 and Chart 7 indicate, domestic-related calls for service have steadily declined over the four-year period of analysis. Calls tend to heavily concentrated off the Main Street of Area 20, while they are evenly disbursed in all locations in Area 26.

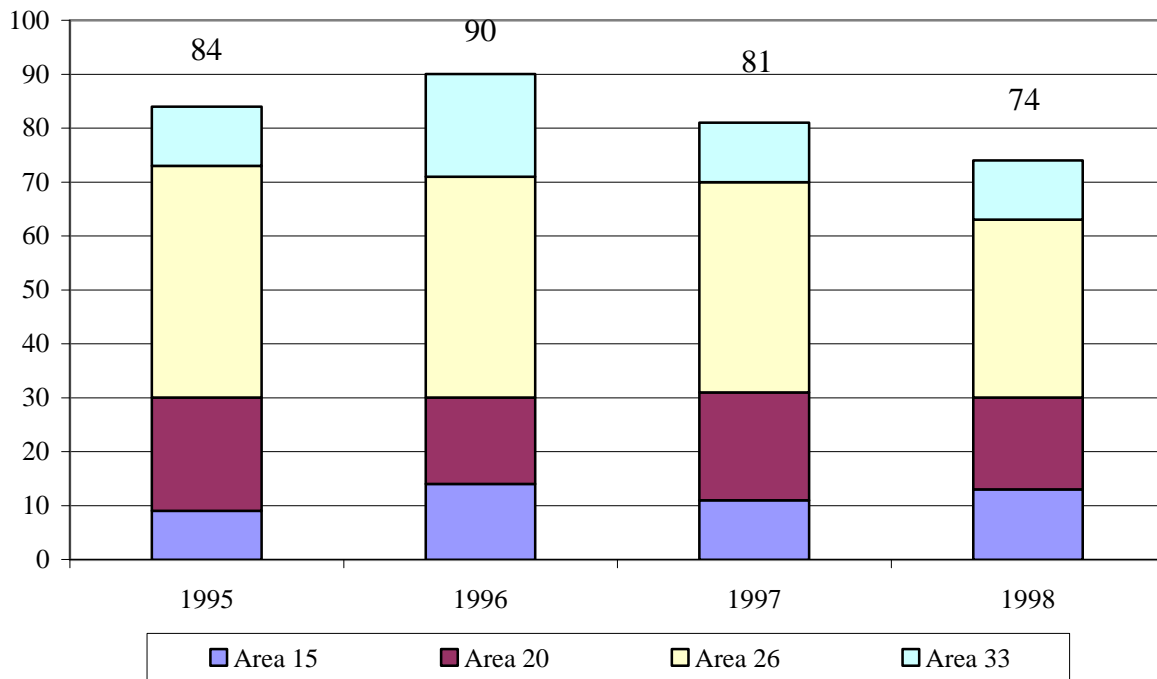
Disturbance-Related

As demonstrated in Table 10 and Chart 8, following a period of decline, disturbance related calls for service increased in 1997, and then plummeted in 1998 to a level below that experienced in 1995 and 1996. Disturbance calls includes minors drinking, fights, and house parties. As Map 8 indicates, disturbance calls are spatially located evenly across the Weed and Seed area.

Table 8: Motor Vehicle Theft-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	6	9	7	8
155	3	5	4	5
Area 15	9	14	11	13
20	18	16	18	16
205	3	0	2	1
Area 20	21	16	20	17
26	37	38	34	28
265	6	2	5	5
266	0	0	0	0
269	0	1	0	0
Area 26	43	41	39	33
33	11	19	11	11
Area 33	11	19	11	11
Total Weed & Seed Area	84	90	81	74

Chart 6: Motor Vehicle Theft-Related Calls for Service



Map 6: Motor Vehicle Theft-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

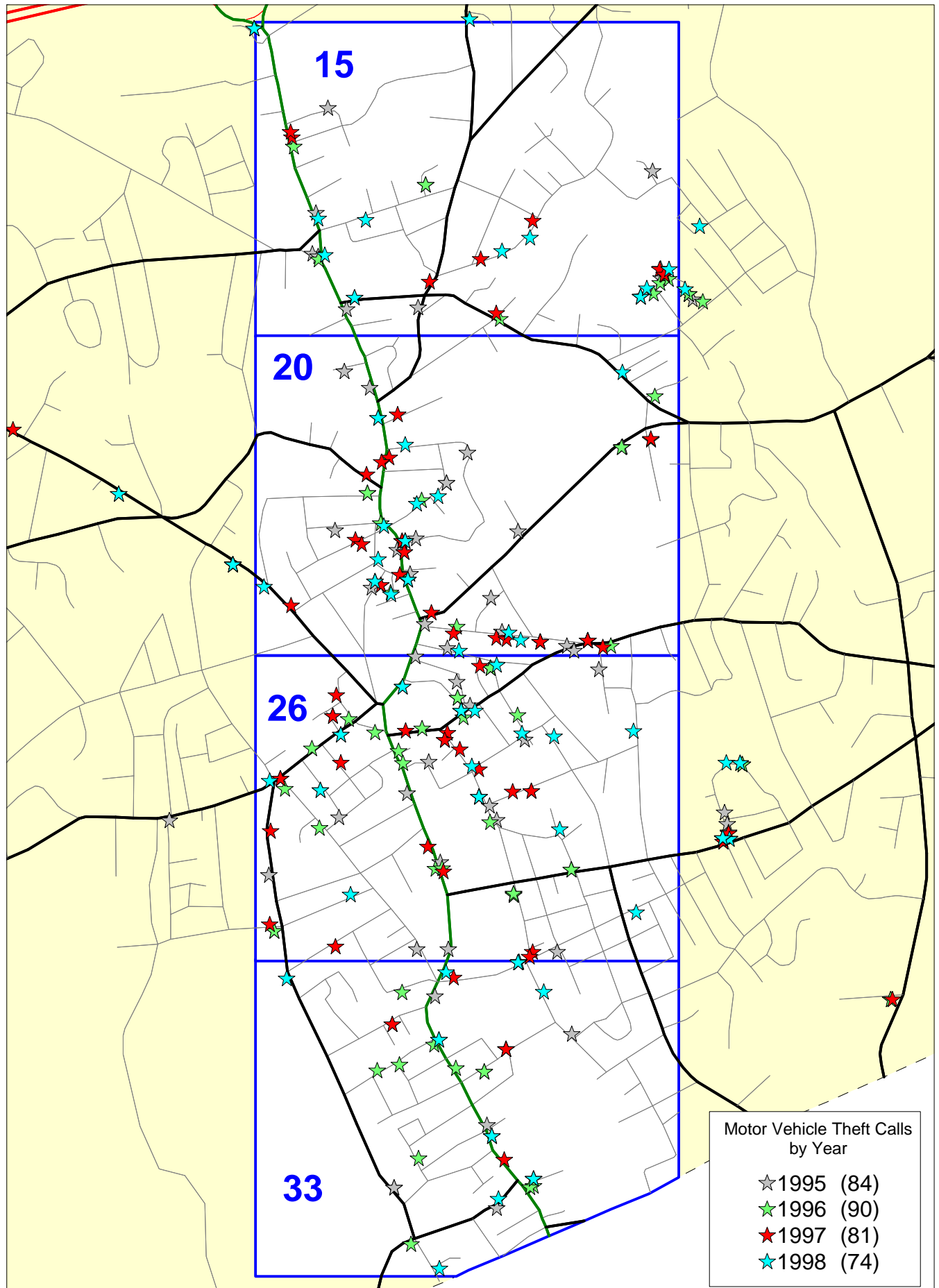
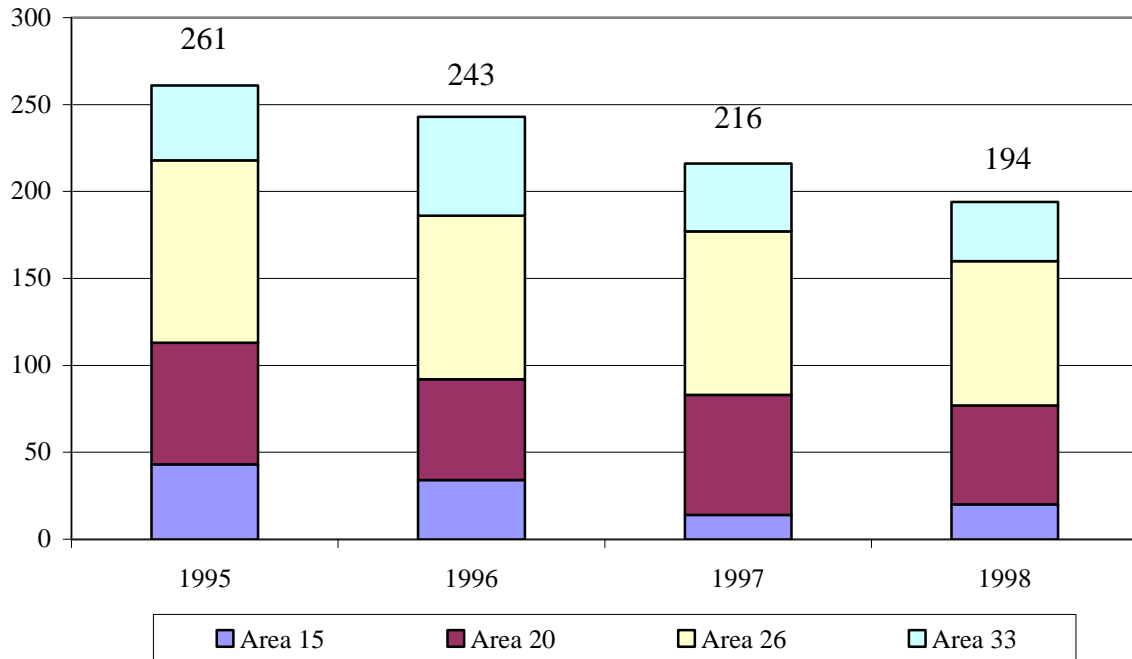


Table 9: Domestic-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	23	18	7	8
155	20	16	7	12
Area 15	43	34	14	20
20	59	48	63	53
205	11	10	6	4
Area 20	70	58	69	57
26	85	67	63	61
265	17	17	26	17
266	1	7	3	3
269	2	3	2	2
Area 26	105	94	94	83
33	43	57	39	34
Area 33	43	57	39	34
Total Weed & Seed Area	261	243	216	194

Chart 7: Domestic-Related Calls for Service



Map 7: Domestic-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

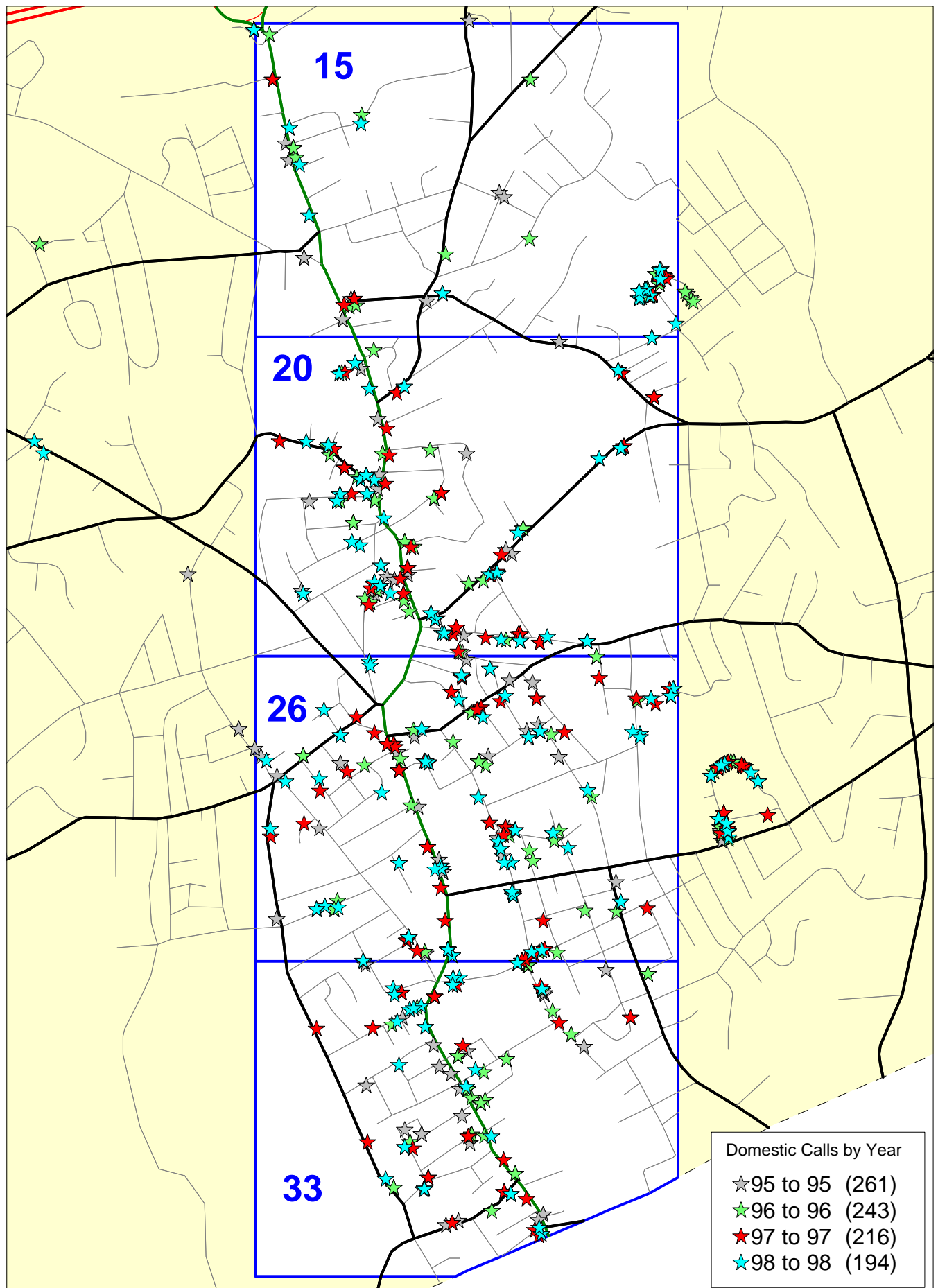
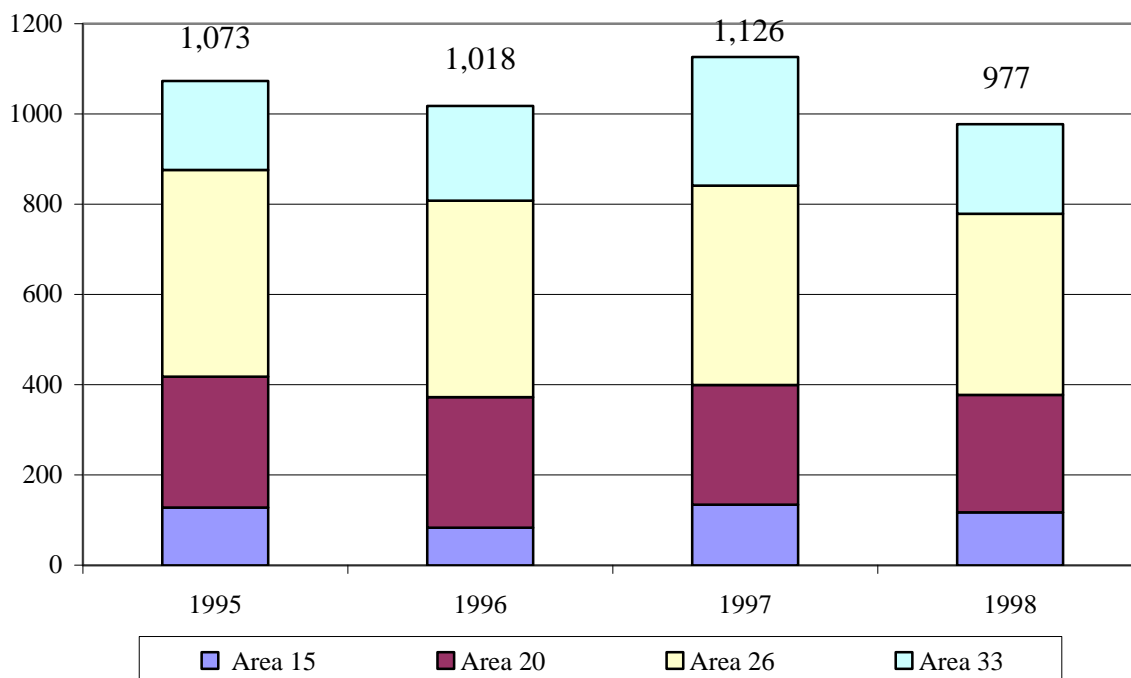


Table 10: Disturbance-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	43	53	75	72
155	85	30	59	45
Area 15	128	83	134	117
20	215	194	207	191
205	75	95	58	69
Area 20	290	289	265	260
26	357	358	345	326
265	72	41	44	48
266	4	12	8	14
269	25	25	45	14
Area 26	458	436	442	402
33	197	210	285	198
Area 33	197	210	285	198
Total Weed & Seed Area	1,073	1,018	1,126	977

Chart 8: Disturbance-Related Calls for Service



Map 8: Disturbance-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998

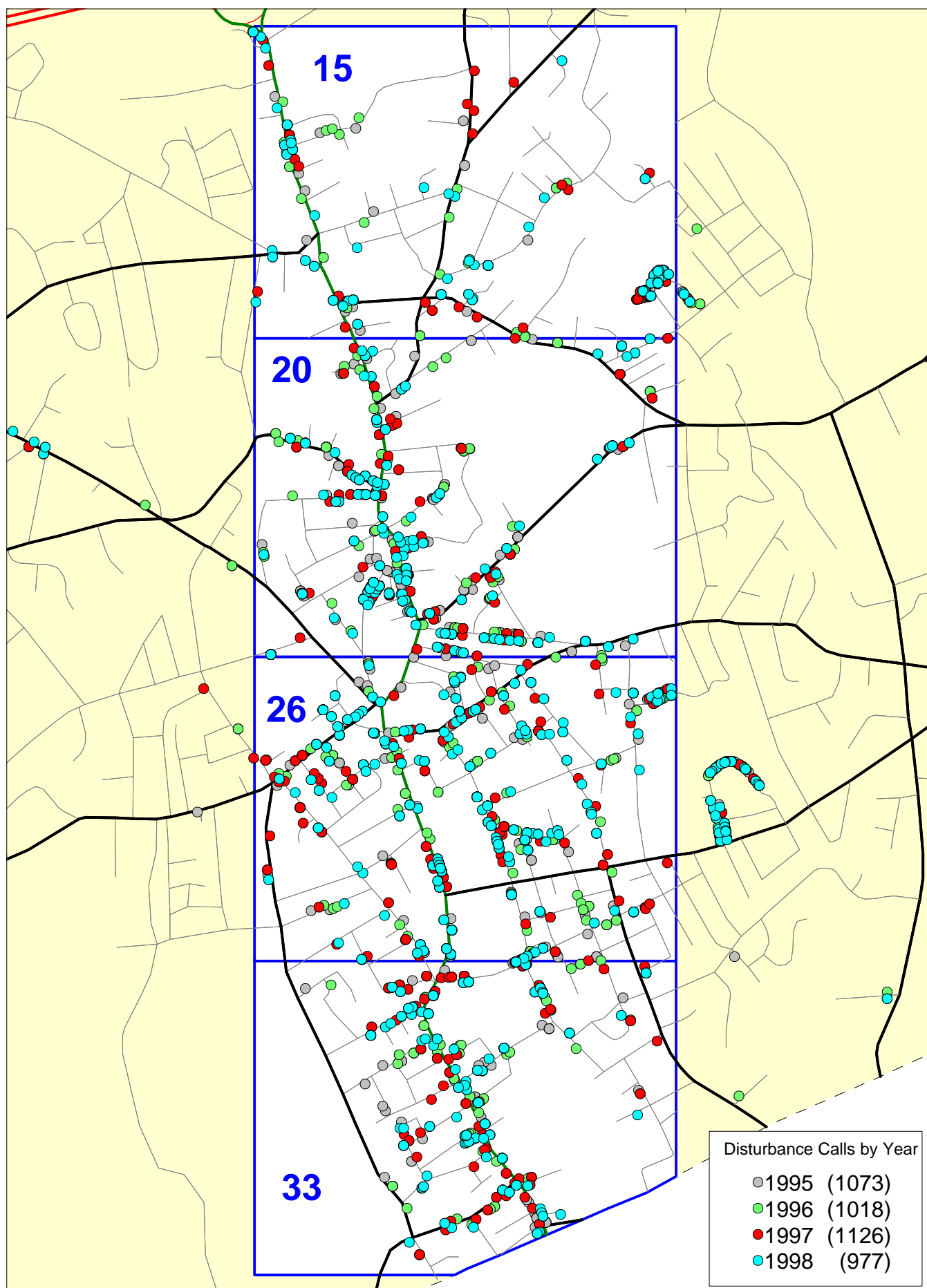
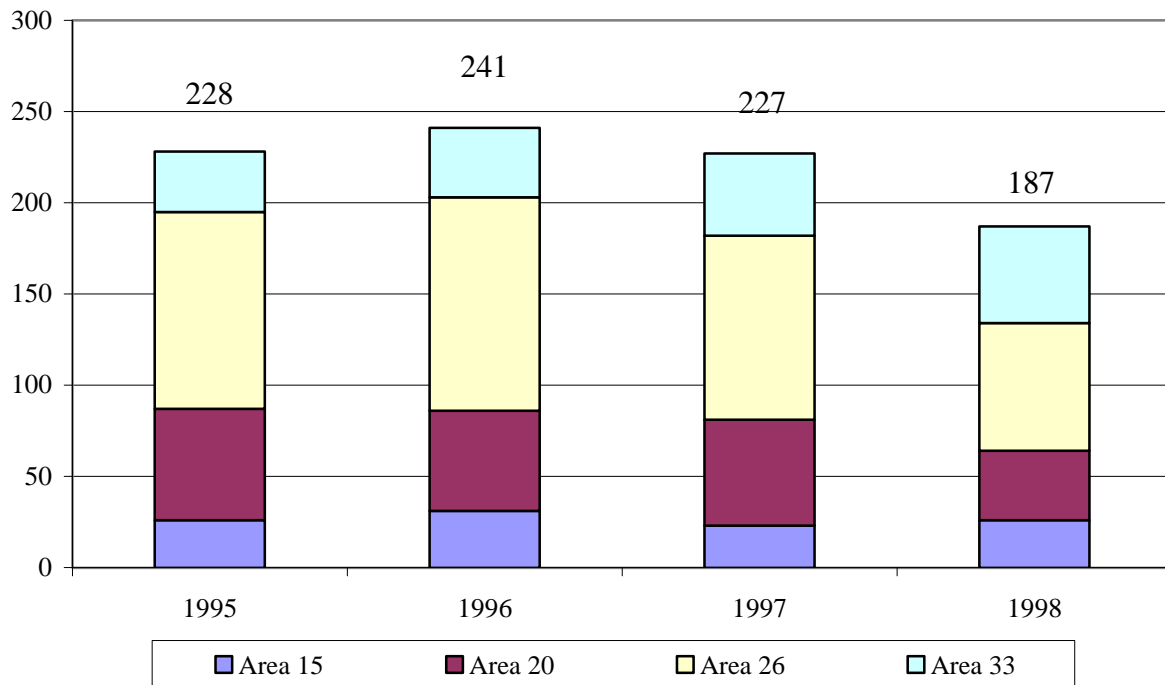


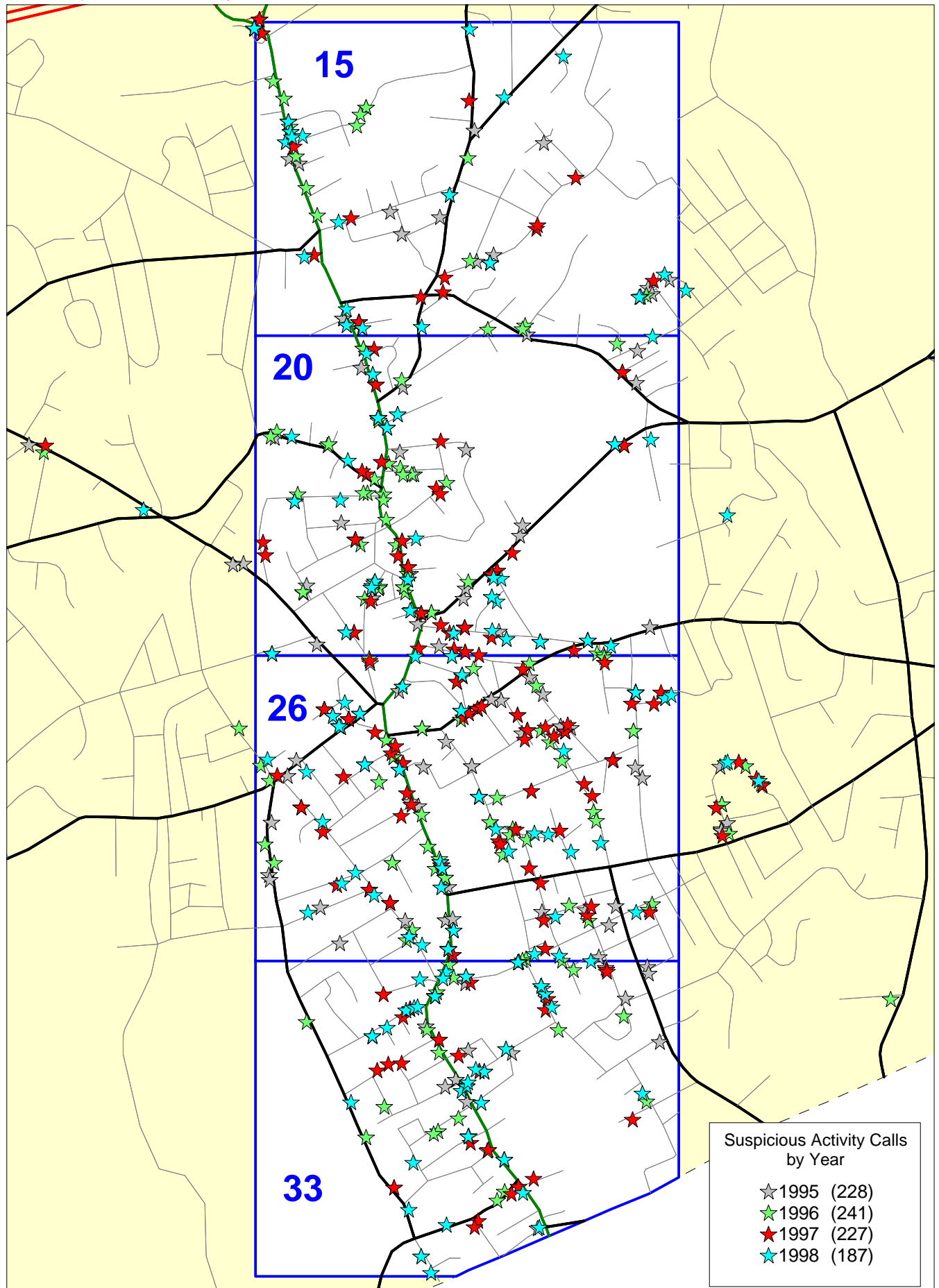
Table 11: Suspicious Activity-Related Calls for Service

<i>Weed & Seed Areas</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
15	22	30	21	21
155	4	1	2	5
Area 15	26	31	23	26
20	52	43	47	34
205	9	12	11	4
Area 20	61	55	58	38
26	97	107	89	61
265	7	5	5	4
266	0	0	2	2
269	4	5	5	3
Area 26	108	117	101	70
33	33	38	45	53
Area 33	33	38	45	53
Total Weed & Seed Area	228	241	227	187

Chart 9: Suspicious Activity-Related Calls for Service



Map 9: Suspicious Activity-Related Calls For Service in the Weed & Seed Areas, 1995 - 1998



Suspicious Activity-Related

From 1995 to 1998, calls relating to suspicious activity have markedly declined in Areas 20 and 26, and shown in Table 11. While suspicious activity calls have remained relatively stagnant in Area 15, calls of this nature steadily increased in Area 33, from 33 in 1995 to 53 in 1998. Map 9 demonstrates this increase to be primarily concentrated in the southernmost region of Area 33.

Conclusion

As the city of Woburn approaches its fourth year of Weed and Seed funding, a preliminary review of the program operation has found the involved agencies have implemented the program as initially designed. Weed and Seed continues to operate as an umbrella program, under which multiple initiatives target a population containing various needs and issues. Although this study had identified the volume of seeding activities currently operating in the City, a closer examination of these initiatives would be beneficial in determining the impact they have had on the city's residents.

The Statistical Analysis Center anticipates the identification of hot spots will be useful to the Woburn Weed and Seed administrators in highlighting areas that might need additional resources, and may also provide indications of possible crime displacement. In planning for this study, it was initially hypothesized that calls for service would increase as the community becomes more involved with the idea of helping the police to solve problems and their confidence and belief in their efforts increases. As demonstrated in this report, an interesting trend was experienced in Weed and Seed Area: calls decreased slightly (1%) in 1996 over 1995, then increased 4% in 1997, and again decreased (2%) in 1998 to reach the same call volume experienced in 1995. What is more interesting to examine are the changes that have occurred over time within the different Weed and Seed areas. The emergence of robbery incidents where they were previously never executed, and the significant decrease in disturbance calls are a few examples of where police can gain insight into their community's crime problems. Overall, crime in Woburn has decreased consistently over the four-year period. Whether this trend can be attributed to the weeding of criminals off the city streets or the seeding of programs for residents in need of services, is a topic that warrants further study.

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